

CARDIOPULMONARY EFFECTS OF EMISSION PARTICULATE MATTER AND PARTICULATE MATTER AND PARTICULATE MATTER AND PARTICULATE MATTER SURROGATES IN HEALTHY AND COMPROMISED RATS

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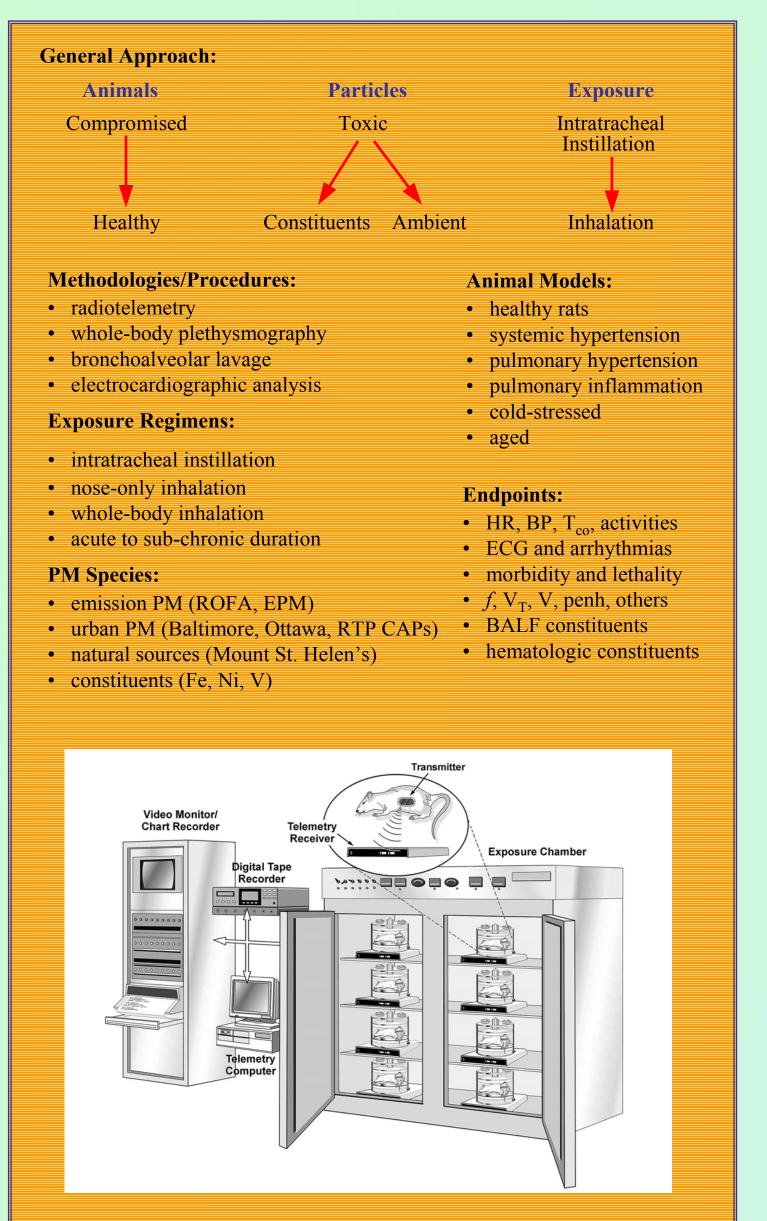
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INTRODUCTION

- A plethora of epidemiological studies have reported an increased incidence of morbidity and mortality following episodes of increased particulate matter (PM) air pollution
- There appears to be a strong association between the presence of pre-existing cardiopulmonary disease and the severity of the PM-related toxicity
- It has been hypothesized that the underlying mechanisms by which these effects are mediated may be of cardiac and/or pulmonary origin
- Toxicological results from animal studies, have yet to define the characteristics, constituents, or pathways responsible for these effects
- Our laboratory conducts studies to investigate the effects of exposure to PM or PM surrogates, with emphasis on the elucidation of specific cardiac and pulmonary responses that might explain the epidemiological findings

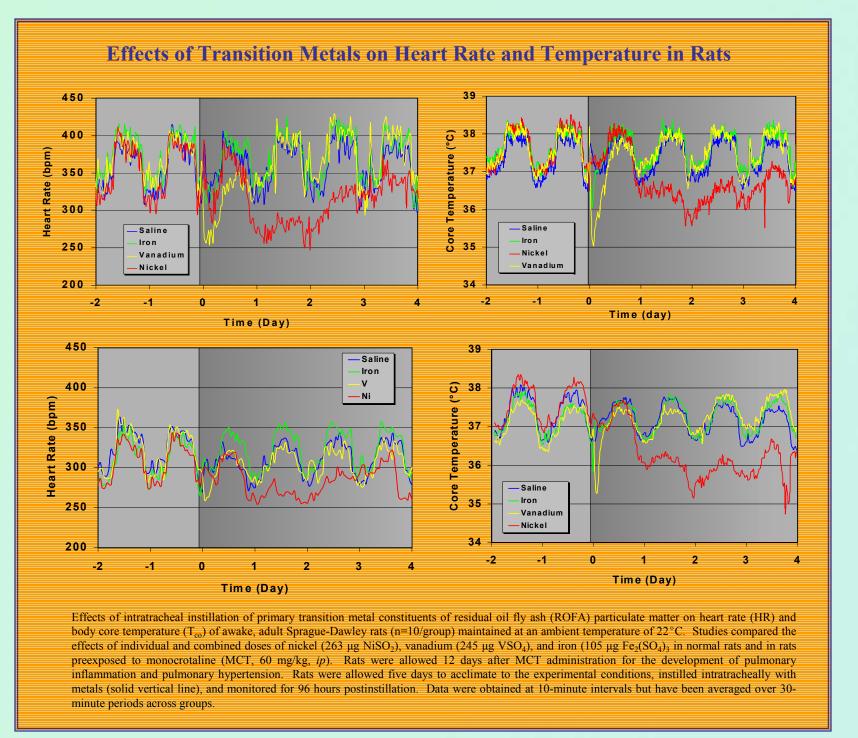


METHODS



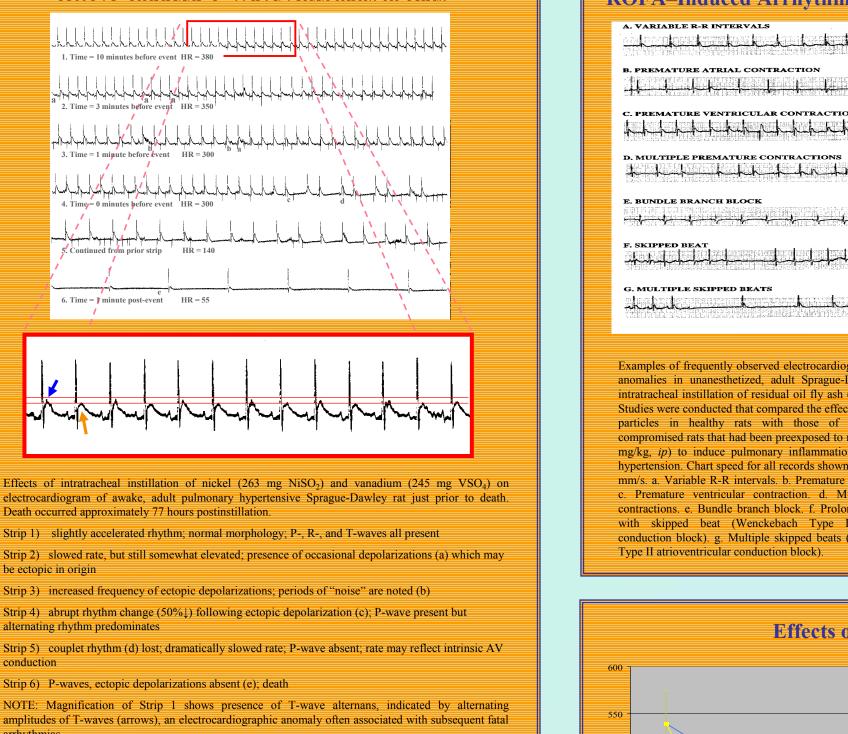
Experimental Day Experimental

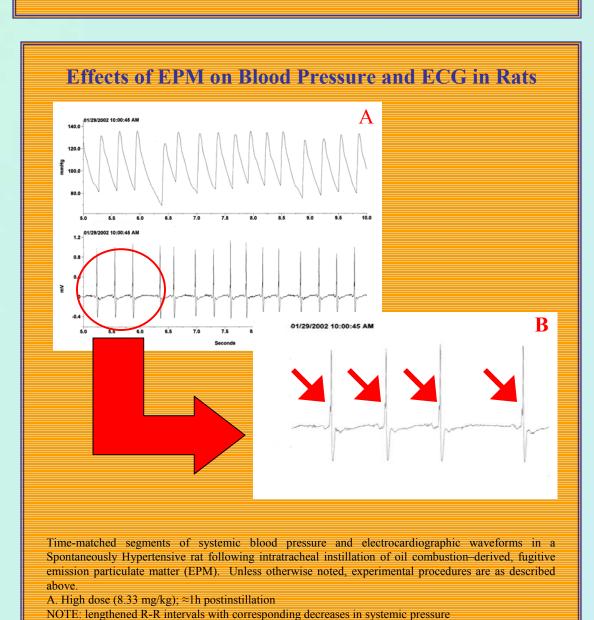
Effects of ROFA on Heart Rate and Temperature in Rats



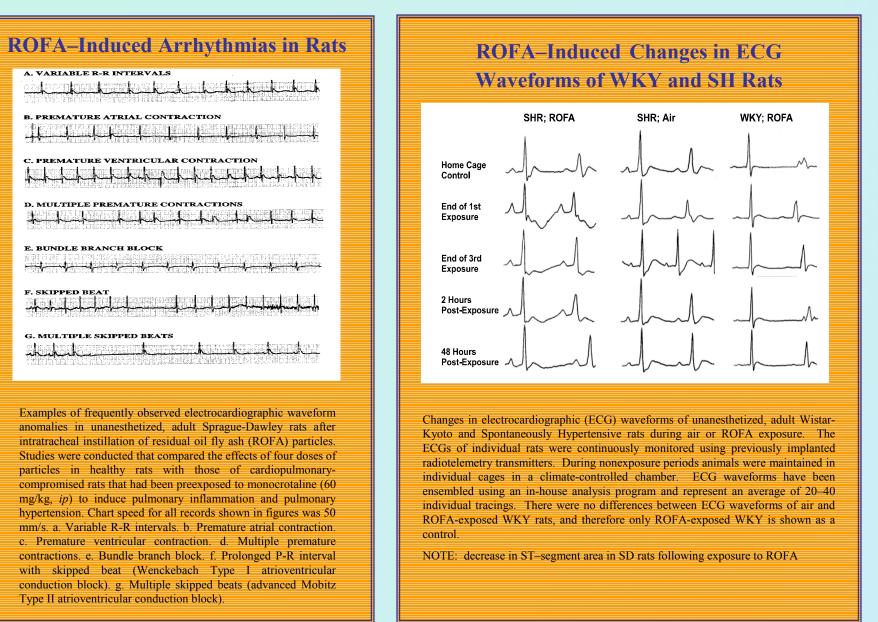
RESULTS

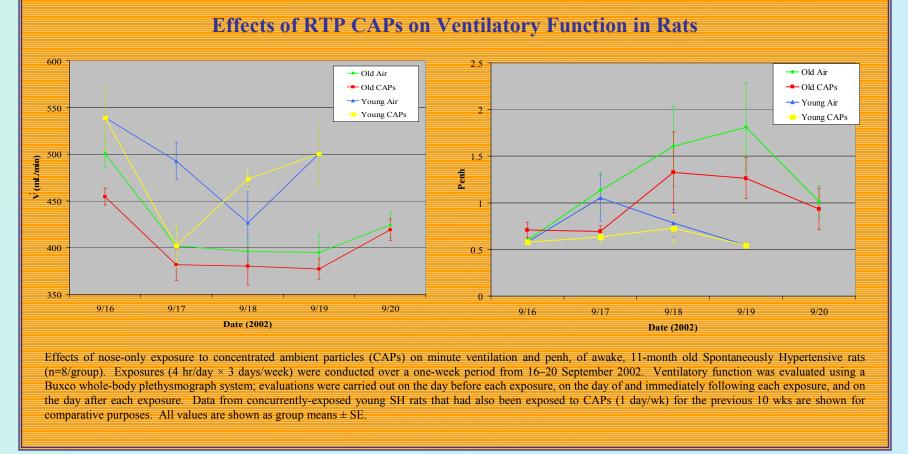
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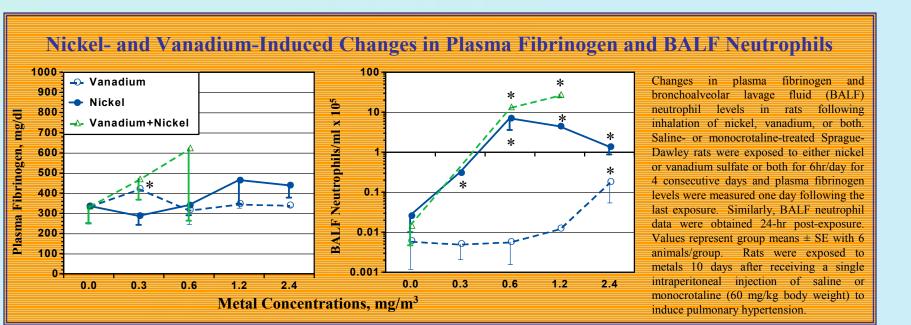




NOTE: enlarged segment from A showing lengthened R-R interval and possible bundle branch block







CONCLUSIONS AND IMPACT

- These studies demonstrate substantial decrements in cardiopulmonary function in conjunction with increased pulmonary inflammation
- In general, these studies support the conclusions of the epidemiological studies and implicate a potential role for metals in the toxic response
- These procedures provide a systematic method of examining the cardiopulmonary toxicity of a given species of PM and provide important insights into the mechanism/s by which these effects are mediated

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

To further investigate the effects and mechanisms of PM-induced toxicity, we propose to develop, characterize, and test new animal models of susceptibility and/or cardiopulmonary disease. These animals will then be exposed via both instillation and inhalation procedures to representative urban PM/PM surrogates. They will be subjected to the full battery of experimental procedures available our laboratory. Particular emphasis will be placed on developing and improving specific cardiovascular methodologies, such as electrocardiographic interval and heart rate variability analyses, for application to rodent models.

SOLVING AGENCY PROBLEMS